

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01614 051659Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1614

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KAUNDA, KENNETH) ZA
SUBJ: KAUNDA VISIT: CHANGES IN KAUNDA PARTY

1. IN OUR CONVERSATION TODAY PRESIDENT KAUNDA MENTIONED THAT MRS. KAUNDA HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET TOGETHER WITH MY WIFE BECAUSE SHE WAS GOING OFF TO LONDON THIS WEEKEND. HER DOCTORS THERE WILL EXAMINE HER TO SEE WHETHER HER DIABETIC CONDITION IS SUCH AS TO PERMIT HER TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES. HE VERY MUCH HOPED THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE AND HE EXPECTED TO KNOW BY TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY OF NEXT WEEK. THERE IS THUS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT MRS. KAUNDA MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT. WE WILL INFORM THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS WE HAVE DEFINITE WORD.

2. THE PRESIDENT ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO ADD MINES MINISTER CHINKULI TO THE PARTY IN ORDER THAT HE COULD DISCUSS WITH INTERESTED AMERICANS POSSIBILITIES FOR INVESTMENT IN THAT FIELD IN ZAMBIA. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD NOT YET INFORMED CHINKULI OF HIS DECISION AND DEPARTMENT SHOULD MAKE NO REFERENCE TO IT UNTIL WE ARE INFORMED OFFICIALLY.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THE LAST MINUTE ADDITION OF CHINKULI MAY RELATE TO THE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN STIMULATING AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN THE MINING INDUSTRY IN ZAMBIA, WE THINK IT MUCH
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MORE LIKELY THAT IT IS A MEASURE OF THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN OVER THE DANGER OF OPPOSITION ELEMENTS COMBINING WHILE HE IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, CHINKULI WAS FOR SIX YEARS COMMANDER OF THE ZAMBIAN DEFENSE FORCES. HE WAS RELIEVED OF THAT POSITION IN MID-1977 AND DEMOTED TO HIS PRESENT JOB. ALTHOUGH THE CHANGE COULD HAVE BEEN A ROUTINE ONE OR RELATED TO HIS INEFFECTIVENESS IN OFFICE, THERE ARE MANY

WHO CLAIM THAT HE WAS INVOLVED WITH PRIME MINISTER MUDENDA IN
A PLOT AGAINST THE PRESIDENT. IN ANY CASE IF HE WAS DISSATIS-
FIED THEN HE WOULD BE MORE SO NOW. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT
OPPOSITION TO KAUNDA IS NOW VOCAL AND STRONG AND THAT THERE
IS SOME DISSATISFACTION WITHIN THE ARMY. WE KNOW THE MINISTER
OF HOME AFFAIRS IS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED. IN OUR VIEW, INCLUSION
OF CHINKULI IS A SAFETY MEASURE WHICH A PRUDENT PRESIDENT
WOULD TAKE IN KAUNDA'S CIRCUMSTANCES. LOW

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